

(Licht.). (For other synonyms see Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 137.) Thunberg's name for this bird has consequently indisputable priority, so that it should be *Elainea flavogastra* (Thunberg). The type-specimen is from Brazil.

12. PIPRA BRUNNEA Thunberg, 1822, = *Muscipeta bimaculatus* d'Orb. & Lafr. 1837 (*vide* Selater). Its modern name is *Empidonax bimaculatus* (d'Orb. & Lafr.), which, however, should be changed to *Empidonax brunneus* (Thunberg). (For other synonyms see Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 224.)

13. PIPRA ATRA Thunberg, 1822, = *Muscicapa colonus* Vieillot*. The modern name is *Copurus colonus* (Vieill.). The type-specimen is a young bird, and I am indebted to Dr. Sharpe for its determination, as it would have been impossible for me to come to any conclusive result about it for want of material for comparison. Thunberg's name is in this case merely a synonym.

XXII.—On the Adult Dress of the Labrador Falcon.

By Prof. M. MENZBIER and Dr. P. SUSHKIN.

THE LABRADOR FALCON (*Hierofalco labradorus*) must undoubtedly be considered one of the most interesting forms of the genus. It was first figured in 1831 by Audubon, but in course of time was either forgotten or referred to other species, until it was re-established in 1875 by Mr. Dresser, who has had an opportunity of seeing and examining many specimens of this Jerfalcon. Of these some were stated by him to be adults and some young; while amongst the characters of this species he pointed out the lead-blue legs ("pedes plumbei," Ornith. Misc. vol. i. p. 185). Though, in comparison with other well-known species of Jerfalcon, neither the character of the coloration of the plumage nor the colour of the legs told much in favour of Mr. Dresser's views, scarcely any objection has been

* Dict. Nouv. d'Hist. Nat. 1816-19.

made to them. In the year 1881 one of us (Menzbier), when in London, was fortunate enough, through the kindness of Mr. Dresser, to be able to examine and describe two specimens of the Labrador Jerfalcon in the collection of that ornithologist. As neither of them shewed any traces of moult, it was impossible to arrive at a decided conclusion as to their age. Notwithstanding this, our study of the Palearctic as well as of the Nearetic Jerfalcons made us consider the existence in the genus *Hierofalco* of a species with plumage and legs as described by Mr. Dresser (*i. e.*, almost without any well-marked change of colour depending on age and with blue legs) very singular.

For the elucidation of this question, when Sushkin was departing for Western Europe, he was requested to visit all the museums where skins of Labrador Jerfalcons might be expected to be found. The Museum of Brunswick (Technische Hochschule) seemed likely to be of the greatest interest in this respect, and it did not fail to realize our expectations. Through the kindness of Dr. Blasius, Jr., Mr. Sushkin had the opportunity of examining the whole collection of the late Dr. W. Blasius, and many of the skins were even sent to Moscow for Menzbier to study. We found at Brunswick nine specimens of the Labrador Jerfalcon, more or less agreeing with the description by Mr. Dresser, and three of these were in moult, new feathers being detected on the rump, thighs, and tail. Besides this, traces of moult on the rump and small scapulars were found in one of three specimens in the Museum of Berlin.

Basing our opinion upon careful examination of moulting specimens, we came to the conclusion that the plumage of the Labrador Jerfalcon which follows its uniform dark brown dress might be roughly characterized as the same as that of the majority of the Jerfalcons, *i. e.*, dark above, with lighter transverse markings and a distinct wash of bluish on the mantle. According to these two dresses (first dark brown and secondly transversely marked), the Labrador Jerfalcon would be the nearest relative of the Norwegian Jerfalcon, from which it may be distinguished by the following characters:—The

dark colour of the upper parts in the Labrador Jerfalcon is much more sooty; the light transverse markings are not only much darker than in the Norwegian Jerfalcon, but also less developed; they are narrower and do not nearly reach the shafts; the rump is uniform, without any trace of transverse markings; the thighs are dark slaty, with buffy-white transverse spots, and not buffy white with dark transverse bars, as in the adult Norwegian Jerfalcon; while the inner webs of the primaries are not barred, but slightly marbled with buff.

By these characters we can infallibly recognise the beautiful specimen in the British Museum (No. 90.3.13.1) from Canada as *Hierofalco labradorus*. It is an old bird with yellow legs, perceptible even in the skin*. The general colour above is very dark brown, conspicuously washed with bluish; the top of the head is very dark, somewhat darker than the mantle, with no markings at all. The ear-coverts are uniformly dark, like the top of the head. The mustachios are not detached from the ear-coverts. The upper back is uniform in colour, with scarcely perceptible light spots on the margins of some of the feathers. The upper surface of the wing is like the upper back. The lower back and rump are decidedly more bluish than the upper back, of a dirty smoky blue. The under parts are very much spotted, dark brown in general colour, with pale buff transverse spots. The under tail-coverts are barred, but the dark bars are very much broader than the light bars—quite the reverse of the state of things in *Hierofalco gyrfalco*. The wing-linings are as dark as the under parts of the body; the under surface of the primaries is of the same character as in the young bird, the light bars being replaced by nearly inconspicuous markings.

Thus the adult Labrador Jerfalcon differs very much in its coloration from the young, and the slight modifications,

* After looking over a number of specimens of Jerfalcons and Sakers, both in the flesh and in skins, we have come to the conclusion that the yellow colour of the legs is perceptible in dried as well as in fresh specimens.

determined by Mr. Dresser as variations depending on age, are merely individual variations of the young birds. His determination is still more surprising, because he had an opportunity of examining the series of Labrador Jerfalcons in the Brunswick Museum, and evidently did not notice the specimens in moult, as we do not find anything about them in his article.

The other adult specimen of the Labrador Jerfalcon which we know of (from Newfoundland) is now in the Brussels Museum. It is just like the bird in the British Museum described above, but not so bright. We take this opportunity of thanking M. Dubois for sending us a water-colour drawing and a description of this specimen.

Perhaps it may be of interest to add that Joseph Wolf, who made the first figure of the female Labrador Jerfalcon for Mr. Dresser, did not believe that the original of his picture was an adult bird (see Palmer's 'Life of Wolf,' p. 272).

XXIII.—*Notes on the Breeding of Ross's Snow-Goose in Captivity.* By F. E. BLAAUW.

At a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club on March 20th, 1901 (see Bull. B. O. C. xi. p. 55), I exhibited an egg of the rare Ross's Snow-Goose (*Chen rossii*) laid in captivity by a solitary female kept by me at Gooilust. A year later, through the courtesy of Dr. Heck of Berlin, I received a second specimen of this species, which fortunately proved, as I hoped it would, to be a male. The birds soon paired, and in the beginning of May 1902 the female made a nest under a bush in her enclosure. The nest was, as is usual with Geese, a small depression in the soil, lined with dry grass and grass-roots.

Towards the end of the month the female began to lay, and on the 30th, when the full complement of five eggs had been deposited, she began to sit, having in the meantime abundantly lined her nest with down from her own breast.

The two birds had always been of a very retiring dis-